

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1           1. An inventory online method to provide a virtually supplemented in-  
2 house inventory for the maintenance inventory holder to provide improved inventory control,  
3 reduce required on site inventory size, and reduce inventory cost comprising the steps of:  
4                 determining a maintenance inventory of parts for a manufacturer;  
5                 providing an online inventory listing of the maintenance inventory;  
6                 connecting the online inventory listing of the maintenance inventory to at least  
7 one other source selected from the group consisting of a vendor's inventory, a component  
8 manufacturer's inventory, a general market inventory, and a shared inventory from another  
9 maintenance inventory holder;  
10               compiling the maintenance inventory for the manufacturer including the  
11 online inventory listing from the at least one other source to provide the virtually  
12 supplemented in-house inventory.
- 1           2. The inventory method according to claim 1 to provide a virtually  
2 supplemented in-house inventory for the maintenance inventory holder in including  
3 determining a maintenance inventory for the manufacturer by:  
4                 listing the maintenance inventory by UPC code.
- 1           3. The inventory online method according to claim 1 to provide a  
2 virtually supplemented in-house inventory for the maintenance inventory holder including:  
3                 connecting the online inventory listing of the maintenance inventory to a  
4 vendor's inventory of parts of the determined maintenance inventory of the manufacturer  
5 only.
- 1           4. The inventory online method according to claim 1 to provide a  
2 virtually supplemented in-house inventory for the maintenance inventory holder wherein  
3 they providing the online inventory listing of the maintenance inventory includes:  
4                 providing an online inventory program.
- 1           5. The inventory online method according to claim 4 to provide a  
2 virtually supplemented in-house inventory for the maintenance inventory holder includes:  
3                 providing an online inventory program from an application service provider.

1               6.     The inventory online method according to claim 1 to provide a  
2 virtually supplemented in-house inventory for the maintenance inventory holder includes:  
3               determining a plurality of maintenance inventory of parts for a plurality of  
4 manufacturers; and,  
5               compiling the maintenance inventory for the plurality of manufacturers.

1               7.     The inventory online method according to claim 6 to provide a  
2 virtually supplemented in-house inventory for the maintenance inventory holder wherein the  
3 compiling the maintenance inventory for a plurality of manufacturers further in includes:  
4               listing items desired to be shared with other manufacturers and;  
5               adjusting the compiled maintenance inventory for parts held in shared  
6 inventories

1               8.     The inventory online method according to claim 7 to provide a  
2 virtually supplemented in-house inventory for the maintenance inventory includes:  
3               adjusting the compiled maintenance inventory requirement for identical parts  
4 downward in the maintenance inventories for the plurality of manufacturers.

1               9.     The inventory online method according to claim 1 to provide a  
2 virtually supplemented in-house inventory for the maintenance inventory holder includes:  
3               searching inventories of vendors and component manufactures for desired  
4 items

1               10.    The inventory online method according to claim 1 to provide a  
2 virtually supplemented in-house inventory for the maintenance inventory holder includes:  
3               sending messages related to items the virtually supplemented in-house  
4 inventory.

1               11.    The inventory online method according to claim 1 to provide a  
2 virtually supplemented in-house inventory for the maintenance inventory holder wherein the  
3 compiling step further in includes:  
4               restricting compiling the maintenance inventory to at least one selected  
5 geographic location.

1               12.    An inventory online system comprising:

2                   a plurality of manufacturers each requiring a maintenance inventory;  
3                   an Internet connection to each of the plurality of manufacturers;  
4                   an online inventory program for listing the maintenance inventory of each of  
5 the plurality of manufacturers; and,

6                   compiling the maintenance inventory for the plurality of manufacturers to  
7 provide a virtually supplemented in-house inventory with similar parts of each maintenance  
8 inventory virtually shared between the plurality of manufacturers whereby a similar part in  
9 one of the plurality of manufacturers is virtually counted to the maintenance inventory of  
10 another of the manufacturers without being duplicated in each maintenance inventory.

1                   13.       The inventory online system according to claim 11 and further  
2 comprising:

3                   the online inventory program for listing the maintenance inventory of each of  
4 the plurality of manufacturers lists the maintenance inventory by UPC code.

1                   14.       The inventory online system according to claim 11 and further  
2 comprising:

3                   compiling the maintenance inventory for the plurality of manufacturers by  
4 listing a similar part at one manufacturer on the virtual inventory of another manufacturer  
5 without having the similar part physically present at both manufacturers.

1                   15.       The inventory online system according to claim 11 and further  
2 comprising:

3                   sending messages between the plurality of manufacturers related to specific  
4 items in inventory.